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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/576,888	04/24/2006	Eric Weynant	2793A114	8311
2101	7590	06/20/2007		
BROMBERG & SUNSTEIN LLP 125 SUMMER STREET BOSTON, MA 02110-1618			EXAMINER LEPISTO, RYAN A	
			ART UNIT 2883	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The listing of references on page 1 of the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered. Only US 6,357,933 was cited on the IDS.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 7. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the first and second caps must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 3 of the specification, a reference to a provisional patent application 60/358,392 is mischaracterized as a US patent. Appropriate correction is required.

The incorporation of essential material in the specification by reference to an publication is improper (page 4 lines 6-8 and page 5 lines 4-10). Applicant is required to amend the disclosure to include the material incorporated by reference, if the material is relied upon to overcome any objection, rejection, or other requirement imposed by the Office. The amendment must be accompanied by a statement executed by the applicant, or a practitioner representing the applicant, stating that the material being inserted is the material previously incorporated by reference and that the amendment contains no new matter. 37 CFR 1.57(f).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Bradley et al (US 6,357,933 B1)** (Bradley). Bradley teaches a device for optically connecting two coaxially opposing optical fibers for the purpose of transmission of an

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optical signal having a ferrule (Fig. 4) comprising a longitudinally extending cylindrical body (40) made of shape memory material (plastic or metal with low creep properties, column 4 lines 60-63) and having a middle portion (the area between slots 45, 55) having first and second ends, a first connection clamp (47) having a conic end (the tapered portion after the slot opening) and second connection clamp (54, 56) having a conic end (49) both clamps located at either end of the middle portion and each having a free ends with a conic groove smaller diameter portions (5 different sections have progressively smaller diameters) between the two ends, a bore (41) that traverses a central axis through the ferrule will a portion (45) having a diameter that compresses to a diameter slightly smaller than fibers to grip the fibers buffers (column 4 lines 55-60), a pair of slots (45, 55) each separated from each other by 90 degrees that traverse the diameter of the body where one pair (45) extend one tapered connection clamp into the middle portion and therefore into the other clamp, and fibers (not shown) that penetrate both ends of the ferrule that meet up in the connection that will create a "cap" (column 4 lines 3-24).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-8 are allowed.

Claims 5, 9-14 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

With regard to claims 6-8: These claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the latter, either alone or in combination, does not disclose nor render obvious a tool for deforming a ferrule having two connection clamps having free ends with conic recesses and each central portion having a conic groove wherein the tool has two internal and two exterior grips that are traversed by a passage that allows fibers and cap wires to be removed or inserted or the method of using the tool as set forth in claim 7, in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations.

With regard to claims 5, 9-14 and 16: These claims would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims because the latter, either alone or in combination, does not disclose nor render obvious a tool as previously discussed or a method of removing fibers set forth in claim 9 or a plurality of slots wherein each slot of a second pair commences at the second connection clamp, in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Demissy et al (US 7,066,656).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Lepisto whose telephone number is (571) 272-1946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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